Message Text

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R 151100Z JUL 77 FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9032 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 2361

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN) PFOR, ANZUS, TU SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S TRIP: BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON ISTANBUL OFFICIALS

REF: ANKARA 5163

- 1. IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MAY ALSO HAVE CONTACT WITH SENIOR LOCAL OFFICIALS WHILE IN ISTANBUL. THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED WITH VISIT ARE GOVERNOR OF PROVINCE AND MAYOR OF ISTANBUL. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF THESE TWO OFFICIALS.
- 2. GOVERNOR NAMIK KEMAL SENTURK GOVERNOR OF THREE OTHER
 PROVINCES BEFORE COMING TO ISTANBUL, SENTURK ROSE RAPIDLY THROUGH THE
 RANKS OF THE ELITE CORPS OF PROFESSIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS FROM WHOM
 GOVERNORS ARE NAMED. HE WAS ONLY 40 YEARS OLD WHEN HE BECAME
 GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL, ONE OF THE MOST COVETED JOBS IN HIS
 SERVICE, AND HAS HELD THE OFFICE FOR FOUR YEARS. HE IS KNOWN AS A
 STRAIGHT-TALKING, NO-NONSENSE ADMINISTRATOR. SELF-CONFIDENT AND
 DIGNIFIED, SENTURK IS ABOUT 5' 8". TALL WITH DISTINGUISHED
 SILVER HAIR AND DISTINCTIVE "BUSHY" EYEBROWS.
 HE HAS TRAVELLED IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT HIS ONLY FOREIGN
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LANGUAGE IS FRENCH.

3. MAYOR AHMET ISVAN - A GENTLEMAN FARMER WITH NO PREVIOUS POLITICZL EXPERIENCE. ISVAN OWES HIS JOB TO HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT. THE TWO WERE CLASSMATES AT ISTANBUL'S ELITE ROBERT COLLEGE WHERE THE MAYOR LEARNED HIS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HE ALSO HAS A

MASTERS DEGREE IN AGRONOMY FROM AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.
ELECTED IN 1973, DURING THE LAST YEAR OF HIS TENURE, HE WAS ALMOST
CONSTANTLY AT ODDS WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHICH ALLOCATES
THE MAJOR PORTION OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS. ISVAN IS GENERALLY
REGARDED AS A POOR ADMINISTRATOR, AND OPPOSITION TO HIM
FROM WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY MAY FRUSTRATE HIS PLANS TO RUN FOR
ANOTHER TERM THIS YEAR. CHARMING AND SOPHISTICATED, THE
MAYOR CUTS A RATHER PATRICIAN FIGURE ALTHOUGH HE HAS WORKED
HARD AT DEVELOPING A POLITICAL BASE AMONG THE CITY'S POWERFUL
LEFTIST LABOR UNIONS. A BALDING, TALL MAN OF ABOUT 6"2",
ISVAN IS 44 YEARS OLD. HIS WIFE IS SOMETHING OF A POLITICIAN IN
HER OWN RIGHT AND IS A LEADER OF THE RADICAL CHIC INTELLIGENTSIA
OF ISTANBUL.

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TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, TU, ANZUS, (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), (SENTURK, NAMIK KEMAL), (ISVAN, AHMET)

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